

TALON

N E W S M A G A Z I N E



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TOWARDS A BETTER AVILA



Alexa Washington (Above)

Although Avila University is a relatively safe campus, campus security should be updated by visualizing guards, improving the lighting around campus pathways, and other areas because the students, faculty, and staff should not wait for something bad to happen before taking steps to improve safety. One problem with the Avila campus is that when the sun goes down the campus is virtually pitch black in certain areas. When walking around

campus at night one, especially a woman might feel unsafe in a dark area. A personal experience was when I was walking back from a rehearsal for First Lady Suite from Goppert Theatre and it was dark on the paths. The sidewalks were virtually deserted. Although I felt safe there was still the opportunity for something bad to happen. Other students are impacted similarly, whether it be walking back from practice for the dance team or walking back from the theatre most of us, students and faculty would feel safer with better illuminated pathways. I think the way to fix this problem is to simply install better, brighter lamps on the sidewalks around the campus...count how many lights there are and how much it would be to replace them....

Not only would this illuminate the paths on campus, but it would make the students who walk back at night feel more secure. Another plus for installing new lamps or light bulbs is that it would give the campus a new updated look, and to the outside public, like incoming students, draw them to the Avila University Campus. Plus they might even be more energy efficient.

Colby Ross (Below)

I would like for the Avila University cafeteria to take steps in finding out what all Avila students like and what would be healthy menus for the athletes. This improvement would not only keep current students eating on campus but also attract interested high school students and increase the enrollment for years to come. The cafeteria could improve the menu offerings by providing a variety of foods for the variety of people attending Avila.



Simon Meade (Left)

I would like Avila to put a small set of stairs over between the tennis/basketball courts and the tennis court parking lot. They only have a handicap ramp and others agree it is an inconvenience to walk around this ramp. Plus, the wall is caving in and the grass on the side of Ridgway is gone in a lot of spots. This causes mud to be on our shoes and therefore causes Avila's cleaning lady to work harder. (Below)



Emily Hoskins

The elevators in Corondote and Ridgway are in need of immediate update or replacement because it is a major safety liability to the University and students are put in a high risk situation each time they use them.



Amy Schwarz (Above)

The students, faculty, and staff of Avila University would benefit from wireless internet on campus. Wireless internet is a feature not available at this time to the Avila University campus. If the fifty acres the Avila campus could support wireless internet it would certainly increase productivity of students, provide better working environments, and make Avila more appealing to future students. The main issue with having wireless internet is the expense. Avila University has fourteen buildings on fifty acres of land. This is an added expense, but it could be taken care of by having a larger technology fee. Whatever it takes to get wireless internet would be worth it. This improvement to the campus would help Avila follow in its mission statement to prepare students for the "contemporary world." Avila University needs to compare the current price of the internet service verse the price of wireless internet and ask students if they would be willing to pay an extra fee for this service. If Avila University finds away to support this service then it needs to be a part of this campus as soon as possible.

Jason Loden (Right)

Avila should invest in some racquetball courts to create a more up-to-date/attractive atmosphere which will allow students to balance themselves through exercise, look more appealing for students searching for a college (most modern colleges have racquetball courts and they don't charge this high of a tuition), and by satisfying the wants of the students already on campus. The emotional aspect of racquetball is also quite beneficial to the human body. Racquetball can also help to reduce one's anger. Whenever I am angry, I tend to just want to go and smack something around. Racquetball is a wonderful option. One can go down to a court with a ball and racquet and smack the tar out of the ball without damaging the court, ball, or racquet. In this way, racquetball is an excellent stress-relieving agent.

Brittany Harris

I think one of the most distinguishing features of Avila is the underground tunnel system. I think it should be expanded and promoted as a unique characteristic of our campus. Let's expand the tunnel system to connect all seven buildings and it would provide better access to classes and offices during cold as well as hot weather. It also could provide for a safer means of travel at night. Plus it just might help student avoid the dreaded freshman "15". The extra steps equal more calories burned.



Thomas Blake (Above)

Dumbbells are essential to an athletes progress in any sport, especially when dumbbell are pretty much all you have. Mismatched dumbbells or even dumbbells that break are useless and should be thrown out. I state this because I am tired of picking up the dumbbells that could break off and smash my foot at any second. I am tired of looking for dumbbells that do not even match. The dumbbells will have different sets for everything, for instance I will walk in and find 2 sets of 15 pound weights then go for a 20 pound dumbbell and there is only one. I think the dumbbells in the gym at Maybee Field house can be easily improved and would result in better athletes. Just a set of dumbbells could help open a world of possibilities that Avila has been trying to achieve.



Bailey Kyle

The kitchens in the Ridgway dorms need to be updated and renovated to improve dorm living. The kitchens can be remodeled and updated because they are inadequate for use due to lack of utensils (pots, pans, dishware), cleanliness, and equipment.

Baseball Warming Up for Rebound Year

John De Roo

The Avila University baseball team is preparing to start another season here in the next couple of weeks. After winning conference championships in 2003 and 2004, the team slipped a little last year after losing several seniors. This year's team should be ready to contend for another title and Head Coach Ryan Howard is excited.

To be blunt, Howard said this year's team is "loaded offensively." One of the key players he is looking for big things from is third baseman Willie Keene who Howard says is "a great hitter and possibly the best hitter ever to come through Avila." The starting rotation is above average and he is also looking for a big year from his starters. He said the weak spot on the team is the bullpen and the set up guys will have to get the job done. The closer

position is filled by senior Jordan Stewart. He's a "sidearmer who throws 88-91 mph." Howard is looking for a big year from his closer. Overall he is optimistic about the upcoming season.

Coach Howard's overall record at Avila to date is 107-89 including a 36-6 regular season mark in 2003. Although that team lost two games in the playoffs to finish 36-8, it was still a fantastic season. Coach Howard was also named Heart of America Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2004. In four years as head coach, he has had 27 All-Conference players including 18 first-teamers and 4 All-Americans. As the NAIA prepares to realign baseball in 2008, the path to the NAIA World Series will be a bit easier and Coach Howard is very excited about that.

"We have to go there at least one time before I leave here," he said laughing.

2005 men's baseball team tuning up



World Baseball Classic Breakdown

Skylar McKeen

In March of this year the first ever World Baseball Classic will be played for global wide bragging rights. After being announced in 2005, the Major League Baseball sponsored tournament has had to endure its fair share of set backs and glitches. Everything from steroids, to concerned team owners, to the question of whether Cuba would be able to participate in the games have all been addressed and sorted out. The WBC will be comprised of sixteen different teams playing in a round robin style tournament, meaning that each team will play the three other teams in their brackets in which the top two teams will move on. Those remaining four teams will then compete in a single elimination tournament where the winner will be crowned world baseball champion. The first round games will be played in Japan, Puerto Rico, Arizona and Florida. In Japan; the Chinese, Japanese, South Korean and Chinese Taipei will play in the Tokyo Dome. At Chase Field in Phoenix, AZ, the Canadian, Mexican, South African and United States teams will play. Cuba, The Netherlands, Panama



and Puerto Rico will compete in Hiram Bithorn Stadium, San Juan, Puerto Rico. And Cracker Jack Stadium in Disney's Wild World of sports will feature the Australian, Italian, Venezuelan and Dominican Republic teams. Although this is considered to be one of hopefully many Classics, the outcome of this tournament will undoubtedly affect the potential for other global tournaments. Outcome regardless, it is clear that this tournament has already brought the global community one step closer than before.

Kobe spells teaME with an extra e.

Michael Johnson

M-V-P! M-V-P! M-V-P! Is what the fans chanted on Sunday night, January 22 inside the Staples Center as Kobe Bryant scores an unthinkable 81 points on 28-46 shooting in just under 42 minutes of play, which included him shooting 7-of-13 from behind the arc. He also shot 18-of-20 from the free throw line, as the Los Angeles Lakers; beat the Toronto Raptors 122-104. Kobe's 81 points is the second highest point total in a single NBA game, only behind Wilt Chamberlain's 100. As remarkable as scoring 81 points sound, to most people scoring 81 points is to remarkable and should never be reached in a sport revolved around a team concept. In basketball for the most part the other four member of your team are needed, but Kobe Bryant single handedly ripped the Raptors defense apart to go on a tear for 55 second half points, second most again to Wilt Chamberlain's 59 second half points.

Kobe Bryant has definitely taken the ME factor into affect, and within his last 10 games he has averaged an astonishing 45.5 points per game according to the sporting news.com on January 23. The Lakers are 7-3 during this streak and have brought the Lakers to a 22-19 record, one game behind the Clippers and 4.5 behind the Suns. Single handedly he's carrying the

Lakers, but what message is this teaching our youth. In a recent interview Vince Carter says that by doing something like this, Kobe Bryant is taking away from the team concept of basketball and delivering a message to kids that doing it all by yourself is ok.

Kobe Bryant says that he feels he's on another level, and if this is what it takes for his team to win, then that's what he'll do, he said his teammates have to step up and meet the challenge. Senior Justin White goes on to say, "His performance was amazing, I can't take that from him, but he'll never win a championship until he learns to play with his teammates". Senior Harold Cade goes on to say, why not score 81 points if the other team can't stop you, you're feeding the hot hand". While there are many others that totally disagree with what Kobe Bryant did like Sophomore Mikael Jones, he says, "how is it possible to score 81 points in the NBA today when you're a perimeter player and you have four other people on the court with you, that solidifies is place as a ball hog, 46 shots!" Kobe did take 46 shots, but this time his efforts landed the Lakers a win. But it goes back to the saying, individuals win scoring titles, teams win championships. Kobe Bryant may lead the NBA in scoring this year, but in a team oriented sport such as basketball, no one person can do it all.

Softball Out to Continue Success

John De Roo

The Avila University softball team is gearing up for another shot at a conference championship this year. After finishing 34-19-1 a year ago including 8-12 in the HAAC, the team reached the semifinals of the conference tournament before losing. This year's team is ready for another shot at the league title.

Head Coach Steve Keel is beginning his fourth season at the helm of AU softball. The girls will open the season February 18th against Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. The first home games are Feb. 19 against York College and Feb.23 against Tabor College. Both home dates are doubleheaders.

"I think we will make it to the HAAC tournament," said all-conference shortstop Alyshia Smith. "We have strong returning pitching as well as strong new pitching. This is also the first season with a deep roster at every position."

In addition to Smith, the Eagles return all-conference catcher Jamie Spenard, pitcher Heidi Heric, and first baseman Stephanie Johnson. Smith also says the core of the team is still together to make another run at the playoffs. "We have almost the same team with some strong freshman," she said.

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NEWS

Youth Keep the Hunting Tradition Alive

Chris Campbell

Ryan Franklin shot his first deer near his home in Edwards, MO, during the youth firearms season in 2005. Yes, Ryan is 5 and he killed a huge ten-point buck. You may be wondering, how young is too young to hunt? This year a change in Missouri regulations has occurred. If you own your own property it is legal to deer and turkey hunt if you are under the age of 6, although one has to be accompanied by an adult and capable of handling a firearm. Can a 5-year-old handle a firearm in a responsible manner when the weapon is perhaps bigger than the child? "I do not like the idea of children learning to kill at such an early age," junior Stephanie Wilson said. For those who are 6-15 years-old a youth firearms deer and turkey season is provided in Missouri. Youngsters from the ages of 6-15 who deer or turkey hunt are not required to be hunter education certified, as long as they are accompanied by an adult who is certified or born before Aug. 1, 1977.

There is no age limit for a child to hunt squirrel or rabbit (any small game) with an adult in Missouri. Like a learner's permit, this keeps youth involved before they are turned loose on their own. It is recommended that every young hunter go through the Missouri Hunters Safety & Education Program. This is an intense 10-12 hours of hunter's education. The program teaches: firearms safety, state hunting laws, and hunting ethics and morals. At the end of the class it is required to pass a state exam before receiving a hunter's permit. An 11-year-old can hunt alone in Missouri as long as they have received his or her hunting permit and certification.

How safe is it to let our youth hunt? The National Shooting Sports Foundation and the National Wild Turkey Federation conducted a study in 2004. These organizations found that hunters 6 to 15, when accompanied by an adult, have a better safety record than hunters all over the United States. However, the Humane Society would like nothing more than to establish a minimum hunting age for children hunting small game in Missouri, Maryland, and other states.

For many families in rural areas, children are taught to handle a firearm and hunt at a very young age. Hunting is a way of life for some; families depend on the meat for the year. "The whole hunting experience in nature teaches youth important ethics and values at a young age," senior Toshiaki Sakurai said. It is necessary that responsible children experience the outdoors and learn how to hunt, so that the hunting tradition is kept alive.

Breaking the Bubble

Ben Digman

So, if given the opportunity, would you rather see a movie on cable TV, on DVD, or in your local Cineplex? A tiny, little film by Oscar-winning director Steven Soderbergh is turning Hollywood inside out by arriving in all three places at once.

Here's why Hollywood is scared. Their antiquated system of cascading distribution works as follows:

Theater > Hotels/Airplanes > Home Video > Pay Cable > Broadcast TV

The major movie studios rely on this system to glean the most money out of movie-watchers as possible. This method guarantees that even the least-liked flicks will pull in millions of dollars.

But if given the option, would we, the movie-going public at large, spend more of our money on seeing the movies we want, the way we want to see them? Soderbergh and the independent studio 2929 Entertainment is betting just that.

2929 Entertainment creators Mark Cuban and Todd Wagner are very aware of the ripples their new strategy is creating. "There is nothing more fun than blowing up tired traditions to create better business models and better customer experiences," Cuban was quoted as saying in a recent New York Times article.

In most aspects of business, giving the customer what they want is a positive move. The movie business likes its traditions, however, and has little desire to conform to what the public wants.

But, in the end, can a little movie, from a little movie studio really make a dent with the big boys?

From a financial point-of-view, releasing a movie in both markets is an experiment worth trying. With the box-office in a steady free fall, the benefits of theater distribution are slowly dissipating. It's an expensive process...the cost of creating 35mm prints of a film reach in the millions alone and adding in distribution deals with theater chains and promotions easily exceeds the amount many films cost to make in the first place.

Then the film actually reaches theaters and can be made or broken by the audience reaction. *Stealth* is an excellent example. Sure, it was a bad idea in the first place but this sorry excuse for a film was made on a production budget of \$135 million. Once released in theaters it went on to fall out of the box office top 10 within two weeks, earning only \$32 million in its entire theatrical run.

When released on video, however, *Stealth* was a completely different story. In its opening weekend on video it debuted at #3 on rental charts, renting over 7 million copies in one week alone. Nearly 8 weeks later, it still rents over 1 million copies a week, on average.

Taking into consideration the significantly less expensive process of digitizing film and producing DVD's, this is a much more financially sound process for studios to undertake.

Now, for the movie going experience:

In my opinion, simultaneous release still leaves open the possibility of catching your favorite flick in theaters, which can be both a positive and negative experience. My fear is that if the video release of films proves more financially beneficial for studios than the theatrical release, the studios will release fewer and fewer films in theaters to maximize their gains, after all this is almost strictly a business to them. While I do agree that negative theater experiences are becoming more predominant, a positive theater experience remains one of the most enjoyable escapes available and, all in all, I would hate to be refused the opportunity to see great films in theaters.

Who knows what will actually come of this experiment. We're all painfully aware of how slow Hollywood is to break out of their conservative and antiquated system, so perhaps this will disappear faster than it ever came about. I guess we'll have to stick around to find out.

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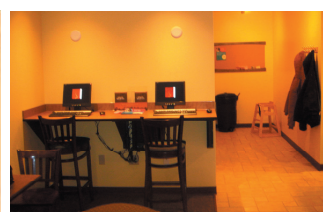
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MaxRant: Slavery Incomparable

Max Thompson

There seems to be this need in America to constantly compare unfair political, economic, agricultural, and ecological relationships or situations to slavery. More recently, Senator Hillary Clinton compared the Bush administration's control of the House to that of a plantation. She wasn't the first privileged American to make such a comparison, and she certainly will not be the last.

It comes as no surprise that her remarks were met with fierce debate and controversy. Many headlines read "Were Clinton's plantation comparisons too harsh?" Well, let's think about this.

In America, when one thinks of a plantation, one thinks of slavery. The natural connection is part of our historical knowledge. Our country fought a civil war over many things, but primarily slavery. It could be argued that the greatest battle throughout the short life of the United States has been that of civil rights – stemming from the Emancipation Proclamation. Before the decree, an argument for the rights of "negroes" was inconceivable.

The basic definition of slavery goes something like this: The state of one bound in servitude as the property of a slaveholder or household. That really doesn't even begin to encapsulate what really went on during our country's youngest years. These slaves weren't prisoners of war or lower class members of a caste who had no other option. These were people torn from their homes and their families, stolen from the only land they knew, and they were tortured, tormented, and loathed for the rest of their lives. That goes beyond a general definition of a word that a large

population of Americans hold to mean so much more.

Can there be any doubt that Hillary knew exactly what she was doing in front of a crowd comprised mostly of African Americans? Or is it possible she took her privileged position for granted?

"[The House] has been run like a plantation, and you know what I'm talking about. It has been run in a way so that nobody with a contrary view has had a chance to present legislation, to make an argument, to be heard," she said.

Certainly that group of African Americans knows what you mean Hillary, and I imagine they were astounded when you took the words right out of their mouths. Since we're already in the sarcastic part of my rant, senator, let's just keep going. Are the members of the House that do speak up beaten until collapse, as well? When a representative runs to the bathroom during an important speech, are his or her feet bludgeoned with a sledgehammer upon return in front of the rest of the members? If these things happen, then we could really start making some connections.

I'm not defending the Bush administration, nor am I solely attacking Senator Clinton. I am tired of athletes, political figures, celebrities, and other citizens of privilege in our society comparing the mundane challenges of their lives to the incredible suffering of an entire race. I would just like to believe that someday soon, we could all realize that no matter how drastic a point we are trying to make, there is no domestic comparison other than true slavery to that which stained our country's image not that long ago.

Denver May go Up in Smoke

Emily Hoskins

Ah yes, grass, pot, mary-jane, bud, weed, marijuana, ganja, doobie, hash, cannabis, or what ever you want to call it, is now legal in the grand Mile High City of Denver, Colorado. This fascinating law was passed on Nov. 2, 2005 with 56,001 voters in favor versus the remaining 48,632 in opposition. Basically the stipulations of this particular law states that residents over 21 years of age can legally possess up to an ounce of marijuana. So basically a great deal of people who are pot-heads or would like to become one will move to the city of Denver in the near future. The citizens of Denver didn't just up and vote for this new policy, but they had to be "convinced." "We educated voters about the facts that marijuana is less harmful to the user and society than alcohol," Mason Tvert, campaign organizer for SAFER, or Safer Alternatives For Enjoyable Recreation, said in a CNN press release. Due to the extreme popularity of this new policy, my prediction is that the population of Denver, Colorado will be severely amplified. Also according to Tvert, the legalization of

marijuana will reduce the use of alcohol, which leads to higher rates of car accidents, domestic and street violence, and crime. Feeling that they were on a roll, the voters in the ski resort town of Telluride came very close to lowering the age for possession of pot from 21 to 18. They were out voted by the slim margin of 308 to 322. It was difficult to see what all those against the new policy are whining about. According to reports from Doctor Melamede, unlike tobacco, marijuana does not induce cancer because of its unique pharmacological properties. And lung cancer is caused by a combination of carcinogens in conjunction with nicotine found in tobacco smoke. So the voters, who were apposed because of the fact that they claimed pot caused cancer, now are seeking new angles to support their arguments. It will be very interesting to observe how this new law is being enforced and interpreted. And now with the ability to possess what many have called, "that little bag of sunshine", the Mile High City just might get a little higher.

Gordon Tenure More than a Flash, Students Remember

The Talon

President Tom Gordon is gone, but remembered by many students. Since this is the "unzipped" version of the Talon, here's two stories about our former President that say just a little about his personality and his goals as the leader of the university.

Tim Hadsell came to Avila hoping to play volleyball at the collegiate level. He arrived from his hometown of Wichita anxious to get the season started. Fall practices led to a winter season that would never happen. "Just before the season started, the program was cut," Hadsell says, "I was disappointed, frustrated, and angry."

A lot of people pointed fingers at the coaching staff for a lack of recruiting or devotion to the program. Others pointed fingers at athletic department head figures. The Talon sent reporters out to sniff up a story. Most school officials, however, were mum on the subject. "I couldn't get answers from anyone. My coach wouldn't even talk to me," Hadsell says.

After weeks of contemplating his future, Hadsell decided to transfer to another school where he could pursue his athletic career. It was at a school rally for winter sports when he met with Gordon face to face. "Mr. Gordon, my name is Tim Hadsell, how are you doing?"

"Just fine, we've got a good crowd here tonight. How's your semester going?"

"Not too bad, just preparing with my classes, getting ready to transfer."

"Why are you transferring?"

"Because you cut my volleyball program."

Hadsell's account leaves Gordon speechless following the exchange, and walking off to talk to another student.

"I appreciate that he was able to talk to me so easily, and be concerned, but I felt like he dropped the ball when it came to the tough question," Hadsell says.

This isn't to say that all stories regarding the president are negative. To the contrary, his tenure was successful on many levels. He brought many donations to the school, spent time in the dorms with students, and dined alongside faculty at the cafeteria. Many students and faculty members often talked of his personable nature, and his general enthusiasm for the university.

Brett Koremenos moved from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Kansas City to attend at Avila. During convocation, he introduced himself to Gordon, who immediately referenced a doctor in Milwaukee who just happened to be friends of the Koremenos family. Needless to say, Brett was taken by surprise, but also comforted a bit by the long distance that was suddenly made shorter by a simple relationship Gordon had developed.

Undoubtedly there will always be positive and negative views on a

Presidency, whether it be as a head of state, a company, or a university. The hope is that the lasting impression is one that is mostly positive, and leaves the school and figure in good standing. If a poll was taken on Gordon's job and popularity, one could probably assume a positive response would be the result. That's all any president could ask for – that the people under his or her command approve of the job he or she has done.



Shows liven up local scene

Erin Stewart

When I inhale the scent of stale beer and cigarette smoke, I am most likely at a small bar enjoying an evening of local music. I went out for another fun night at a show on Thursday, January 26th to see a show with three bands: Last Night Alone, Flak, and Handicapped Love Affair. The venue was the Grand Emporium.

Since the show was 21 and over, and I am only 20, I got there early and grabbed one of the band's guitars and walked right on and found a seat. The cover charge was \$5, so even if I had to pay my way in, it wouldn't have made a dent in my cash for the night. The crowd crept in slower than snails, and the bar's staff were all around working on the lighting and getting ready for sound checks..

It was the opening band's, Last Night Alone's, first performance. They filled the small, cramped stage with their lively energy. Their sound ranged from punk to post hardcore. Since they were the opening band, not too many people were there yet to enjoy their performance. This was disappointing for both the band and the crowd that was there because those who showed up after missed out on a great performance and some catchy tunes.

Flak, the next band, got much more attention as people slowly began to

fill the bar around 9 pm. Their sound was a combination of 3 Doors Down, Nickelback, and Taproot all balled up and put together in one band. Soon after they started playing, several drunk, or soon-to-be drunk people flocked in front of the stage to engage themselves in their music and shake their fists. The only part about Flak that I enjoyed was when they did a cover of "Say it Aint So" by Weezer.

The last band, the Handicapped Love Affair, was a breath of fresh air compared to Flak. The crowd seemed to liven up from their poppy sound. After their set continued, I noticed flashes of Simple Plan.

Though most of the crowd didn't know it, the night belonged to Last Night Alone. Lead man David Dye's vocal range and stage presence combined with the bands energy and ability left a mark in the audience's head and ears. They made a bold opening statement to the local music scene, and I can't wait to see them play again.

There are shows like this 3 to 4 times a week at different venues around the Kansas City area. So if you want to go throw a couple back and enjoy some live music check out the bars near you! Each band from Thursday night has a Myspace music page, so check them out!



Last Night Alone

For a verbal explanation of Last Night Alone ask Erin Stewart.

MVP Baseball 'pings' in the gaming new year

Skylar McKeen and Max Thompson

EA Sports MVP NCAA Baseball 2006 hit the market last week, making history as the first College baseball video game. Differing slightly from the past MVP games, the games featuring major league players, NCAA Baseball gives gamers the chance to play with 128 collegiate teams in 19 different stadiums. Equipped with a new 'load and fire' hitting technique, NCAA Baseball 2006 is projected to be one of the hottest games out this year. Other significant differences from the previous MVP games include aluminum bats, precision throw and control, school spirit amongst fans, Creation Zone and NCAA Dynasty. The last two features allow gamers to both create their own player and create their own college team from the ground up. With the popularity of the college baseball world series gaining popularity more each year, it seemed as though it was only a matter of time before the Canadian based EA Sports company would come out with a college baseball video game.

Released after the new Xbox 360, the game is available on the Xbox and Playstation 2 platforms. Those who have now experienced the graphics revolution



of the 360 will be disappointed in poor outlining and hiccups in gameplay. Baseball enthusiasts will love the realistic equipment and modern baseball suppliers' presence in the game. In-season challenges help break up monotonous schedules, and regional and super regional playoffs give a much needed change of pace to gaming playoffs. If the sound of pings becomes overbearing, there is an option to play summer league rules with wooden bats. The create-a-player feature is better than ever, but the create-a-team is a bit of a letdown, with no customizable uniform options. Overall, the game is everything most enthusiasts could have hoped for, and a little more. The road to Omaha can now be enjoyed by students, dropouts, and ten year olds.

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Athletic In, Barbie Not

Michael Johnson

Not too long ago, you saw people eating less, running more, trying to fit that figure or shape that society set for them; the Barbie doll figure. Now you find women doing the complete opposite, women have now hit the weights, just as hard as men. With the emergence of mainstream hip hop, and television, athletic body types seem to be in now, so what is there to the model Barbie approach? It's not as attractive as it was 20 years ago. You have people such as Jennifer Lopez, being praised for having a great derriere. Jessica Simpson was found doing a vigorous training routine to develop her gluts in that area to help her play a role in a movie.

In mainstream hip-hop you have songs such as "baby got back", "shake ya tail feather," "tip drill" and countless others, which encourage teens that having a great derriere is sexy, attractive, and what every guy/women wants. So are athletic body types in, and the skinny prototype of Barbie out? Looking from a woman's perspective, women love, and think men with ripped abs, and bulging chest muscles are attractive and somewhat sexy. Athletes, Rappers, and Celebrities are put on a pedestal and all of them have to maintain a constant body shape, year after year in order to make it throughout the industry. I for one am hitting the weight room.

Watch Out HAAC; AU Hires New Volleyball Coach

Dani Asher

Avila's volleyball program is heading in a new direction with the addition of head coach Amy Carlson. Amy comes in with twelve years of coaching under her belt. She gained HAAC experience while coaching volleyball and softball at Baker. From there, she moved on to St. Theresa's Academy where she led the team to a record of 78-16 overall. Carlson said, "At this point, I missed interacting with older student athletes and the collegiate competition."

Amy was drawn to Avila largely because of the location. She also likes the conference and the NAIA's Champions of Character concept. "Avila will be easy to recruit to because of its academic reputation," says the head coach.

Amy's first impressions of the team were that they are hard-working, receptive, and open to changes in technique. "This group has good team chemistry," she said. According to sophomore Brittany Lofgreen, "Amy is a great improvement in the coaching staff and she meshes really well with how the team plays. She also understands where we are coming from

with her past experiences in the conference. I like her a lot."

Amy's philosophy is about getting better everyday. She is less concerned about wins and losses. "We are going to work on the things you can control, such as effort and intensity." Junior Rachel Boley states, "Practices are very intense and helpful." Teammate Jessica Horine agrees, "Practices are more competitive and fast-paced. She is a good fit for AU and I can't wait for my senior year."

Carlson has high expectations for her team. Her purpose for the spring and summer is to improve strength and technique. "My goal for next season is to finish in the top of the conference," Stacy Suntken said, "Amy has the capability to help the team get where we want to go." The head coach has high hopes for a big recruiting year as well. "The key is finding good fits for Avila and the team," Amy stated. Armed with the capabilities of a new coach and a positive attitude from the team, Avila could be 'killing' opponents next fall.

Jumpin' Java: College campuses seeing coffee explosion

By Kevin Hilgers
(KRT)

American University junior Hillary Tolson follows a strict routine: two cups of coffee every day, always a regular and a latte. And she'll only get them from two places: Einstein Bros. Bagels on campus or a nearby Starbucks. Surely there's a science to her choosiness.

"The cups look nice," she says. "At Davenport (Lounge on campus) they have that plain white Styrofoam. You don't want that."

Young adults like Tolson form the fastest-growing segment of coffee drinkers in the country as they come for the caffeine and stay for the cool factor _ or vice versa. Coffee consumption in the 18- to 24-year-

old age group is expanding like none other, jumping by more than 18 percent in 2005, according to a National Coffee Association survey.

This trend is clear on the American campus in Washington, where students now can choose coffee from eight locations _ nine when fair-trade-only Pura Vida opens in January _ along with four Starbucks stores within walking distance.

Coffee has made a resurgence overall in the last decade after struggling for much of the latter half of the 20th century. According to author Mark Pendergrast, who wrote a book chronicling the history of coffee, it was relegated to "housewives

and hairy businessmen" in the 1950s, when soda became popular with everyone else. Its comeback came in the 1990s when a new generation of coffeehouses, with their inviting couches and diverse menus, sprung up across the country. Just as they were in London and Vienna of the 17th century, coffeehouses reign once again as social hot spots.

They also answer the needs of college students. As they find new work loads and social demands, they want ways to stay awake and places to hang out.

"For the last 10 years, it's been gathering in popularity," Pendergrast says. "You don't need to get drunk to have a good

time socially. It's a good place to gather. It's a very positive thing that coffee is popular. It's a way to study in a pleasant environment."

That's obvious at American. Students can connect to the Internet or curl up on the L-shaped couch at the sleek-looking Megabytes Cafe. At the student-run Davenport Lounge in the School of International Service building, people play chess amidst bookshelves lined with old copies of National Geographic and the latest issues of The Economist. There's even a new coffee place in the library

For more information go to thetalon-online.com

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Angus, Angus He's Our Man...

The essence of Goppert theatre not only shines in the spotlight but many believe its number one critic is also a resident.

The famous ghost of Goppert theatre "Angus" has been an alumnus at Avila as far back as anyone can remember. As the rumor goes the original theatre built in 1973 had a fire and one of the workmen who helped to rebuild it fell from a scaffold on the ceiling and died. Yet, it's not sure who "Angus" actually is being that the fire occurred in 1998 and "Angus" has been around since the theatre's beginning. It may be that he was a worker who helped to build the original theatre and fell from a scaffold while constructing the lighting grid yet no one is for sure.

One thing is for certain though; "Angus" is more popular than any jock or cheerleader on campus.

The Dean of the College of Humanities and Performing Arts, Charlene Gould, has worked at Avila since 1983 and states that she doesn't believe in ghosts yet there is definitely a presence in the building. "There have been incidents of doors slamming, footsteps and other unexplainable occurrences in the backstage area and costume room." She has also witnessed a chair off the far right side of the stage be occupied by something not visible to the human eye, that is of course except the fact that it appears as though someone has rested their bottom to watch the latest production in work.

There has also been reports of white shadows moving across the ceiling while everyone on stage were actually in the middle of a production. One website, Haunted Theatres of North America, is familiar with the lore of "Angus" and they mention that their sources say, his presence has been felt in the backstage area, in the tunnel underneath the front office where footsteps and heavy breathing are heard. They also mention that "Angus" is known for his outbursts of damage to lighting, props and scenery if he doesn't agree with the production at hand.

This may also be true for practices as well. Amber Davis recalls what she believes may have been her brush with "Angus". "It all began when my friend Molly Fonseca was practicing her monologues on the stage and my boyfriend Jamie Conover and I were the only ones in the audience watching. When she finished she stepped off the stage and my boyfriend began reenacting a movie scene or something. Molly suddenly got a chill and put on her sweater. We didn't think anything of it until seconds later a loud banging noise came out of the vaums and made our hair stand straight up. Without a second thought we ran directly up the stairs and out into the lobby. Finding no one but the janitor we told her about our sudden encounter. She told us she was only cleaning the lobby and as far as she knew we were the only ones

there. We slowly returned to the theatre and crept into the vaums. I was leading the pack and my foot kicked something on the floor, which rattled and created the exact same noise we had just heard only quieter. We all froze and looked down at the object. It was a metal trashcan, which was dented and wobbled a bit. I picked it up and tried to repeat the noise we had heard earlier. We decided someone, or something, had picked up the trashcan and banged it repeatedly on the floor. It is possible it fell off of a shelf or something, but when my foot first kicked it, it was sitting like a normal trashcan would, not like it had just fallen. A few days later we returned with our digital cameras and there were in fact "orbs" or little mysterious white dots that showed up in the pictures."

More than one source mentions that late at night you can sometimes hear music playing from upstairs. "Once a friend and I were staying late after rehearsals and we heard music being played through the vents there was also the sound for footsteps on the stairs. We went upstairs to check things out but there was definitely no one in the building but us." responds Jinni Pike when I approached her about her experiences with "Angus".

While "Angus" seems to be our poltergeist alma mater, students say that Goppert isn't the only place where "Angus" lurks, that is of course unless he has a companion on campus as well. Kelly Skelton inputs, "I do not think Avila is haunted compared to my prior experiences in Ft. Leavenworth, KS, which is highly known for its multiple ghost stories. On the other hand, my roommate does. She has named the ghost of our room Bartholomew. Sometimes our door opens with no visible person opening it, then after a few minuets shuts on its own" Hmmm!?!?!? Then there Ms. Kayle Walker who remarks I am not going to say that it's absolutely a ghost but for more than a week and 1/2 now someone/something has been calling my dorm phone at exactly 4:30 A.M. and they leave the exact same message. It's an older women and she says, "I don't have time for this. I'll see you outside." Whatever it is, it's very creepy!"

Ghosts stories, myths, lore and legends have clouded our thoughts and imaginations since the beginning of time. It seems as though it's all in the eye of the beholder. Some see, some believe and there are those who see and still don't believe. Charlene Gould states though Angus definitely doesn't like to be upstaged!!! And he is the one and only confirmed spirit of Avila. One thing is for sure "Angus" is as much a part of Avila as the foundation that we rest upon. Rather it be through myth or the invigorating stories of his encounters, an eyebrow is definitely raised at the mention of his name.

A Look into Who Avila Ambassadors Are

Monique Bryson

Making it through high school may be tough, but what about so many students future after that? So many students want to attend college but find it hard to pick the right college that suits their needs. This is where Avila Ambassadors get involved to help.

Avila Ambassadors are essentially tour guides who show prospective students throughout the campus including the different departments, the dorms and the library. They are required to give two tours a week. There are monthly meetings for the members. There is a training session for each member and an incentive program. They plan several types of activities for students such as All About Avila Day, The Spring Fling and many of the Intramural activities.

First year student Brian Berger, joined because he wanted to show students how the campus would be if they where to come to school here. He also said, "we have a small population and every student counts." Brian is also involved in the Student Diary located on the Avila website. The Student

Diary project includes six members who were selected through an interview process. They write about student life at Avila from their perspectives and post pictures on the site as well.

Junior Gayan Peart, became a member because she loves being here and it allowed her to meet incoming students. She also wanted to have an impact on perspective student's decisions by showing them the campus before they go off somewhere else. This was also away for her to help first year students who feel intimidated, she stresses that, "this is way to loosen their fears".

Sophomore Rachel Williams, started out as a work study student until she was approached and asked to be an Avila Ambassador. She was excited to be a part of this to encouraging other students and provide them with information about the school.

The Avila Ambassador program will be taking applications in April. Any student who is interested in becoming involved with Avila should just go to the Admissions office for applications and information.

Inside Avila's Cafeteria

Eric Marerro-Hunt

A number of people have expressed their personal feelings about the Avila cafeteria and what is served, but what they may not know is that the menu is a part of a standard four week rotating menu. This rotating menu informs Don Hillard, Food Service Director, and the three cooks under him exactly what is to be prepared for each day which includes breakfast, lunch, as well as dinner. Although a number of people feel disgusted on how things are performed inside of the cafeteria, a substantial number of people feel everyone working in the cafeteria is doing a great job.

For the skeptic, negative, naysayer, downing the cafeteria staff, Don says, "The job is done better here than at most other university cafeterias." He goes on

to say, "Here, the deserts are made from scratch, unlike other schools I've visited." Here the cafeteria workers are obviously in tune with students and faculty and on any given day, someone will see Don or someone else on the staff talking to the students, asking about their day.

Don arrives here at Avila at 7:00am and works until 6:00pm. Eleven hours of his day are spent on the Avila campus, where he and his staff cater to the students and faculty, and they are rarely shown appreciation for their work. The next time you see a cafeteria worker, serving you, or cleaning up after you; just say "Thank you." And if that gesture is just a bit too cliché and trite, a nice smile and a wave will do just fine.

Year of the Dog

Jan. 29 marks the first day of the new Lunar Year – Year of the Dog. Ethnic Chinese often consult fortunetellers' guides to see what the new year has in store for them.



2006 could be a year of fire, meaning military conflicts and epidemics – yet it could be a smooth year for the economy.

Dog people tend to be honest and freely show their feelings – yet they can be stubborn or short-tempered; most compatible with Horse, Tiger and Rabbit.

The sign of the dog: Jennifer Lopez, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Steven Spielberg, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Donald Trump.

SOURCES: Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco

AP



Dean of VisCom seeks to Build Lasting Relationships

Eudora Savage

Dotty Hamilton, PhD, Dean of the School of Visual and Communication Arts while originally from Kansas City for many years lived in the Mid-Atlantic where she worked for CNN in Atlanta and with a Wildlife Agency in Florida. It was in Florida while working with the Council for Juvenile Delinquency that she met her husband, Mike Hamilton. Dotty Hamilton's grandparents are from Croatia and she enjoys her frequent visits with them. This love for travel keeps her excited as she looks forward to her visits to Hungary every other year to teach Documentary Film. Hamilton describes herself as being high energy, interested in politics, art and film, current affairs and very much a mom.

Dean Hamilton is married with twin sons who are attending college in Los Angeles and Miami. Both are graduating this year. Although Dean Hamilton has an active and busy professional and private life, she does not see her career and personal life as separate; she rather accepts them as being integrated. Her undergraduate degree in Psychology and her PhD in Film from the University of Kansas provides an excellent bond between her private interests and her professional pursuits. Hamilton works in a field that she loves and that truly interests her, she is on the Board of the Kansas International Film Festival, and the Kansas City Filmmakers Jubilee that will be having its 2006 Film Festival early next month. (Saturday, April 8, 2006 from 9.30 A.M – Noon with free admission and parking at the Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street).

Hamilton's advice to students that are undecided academically is to delve into

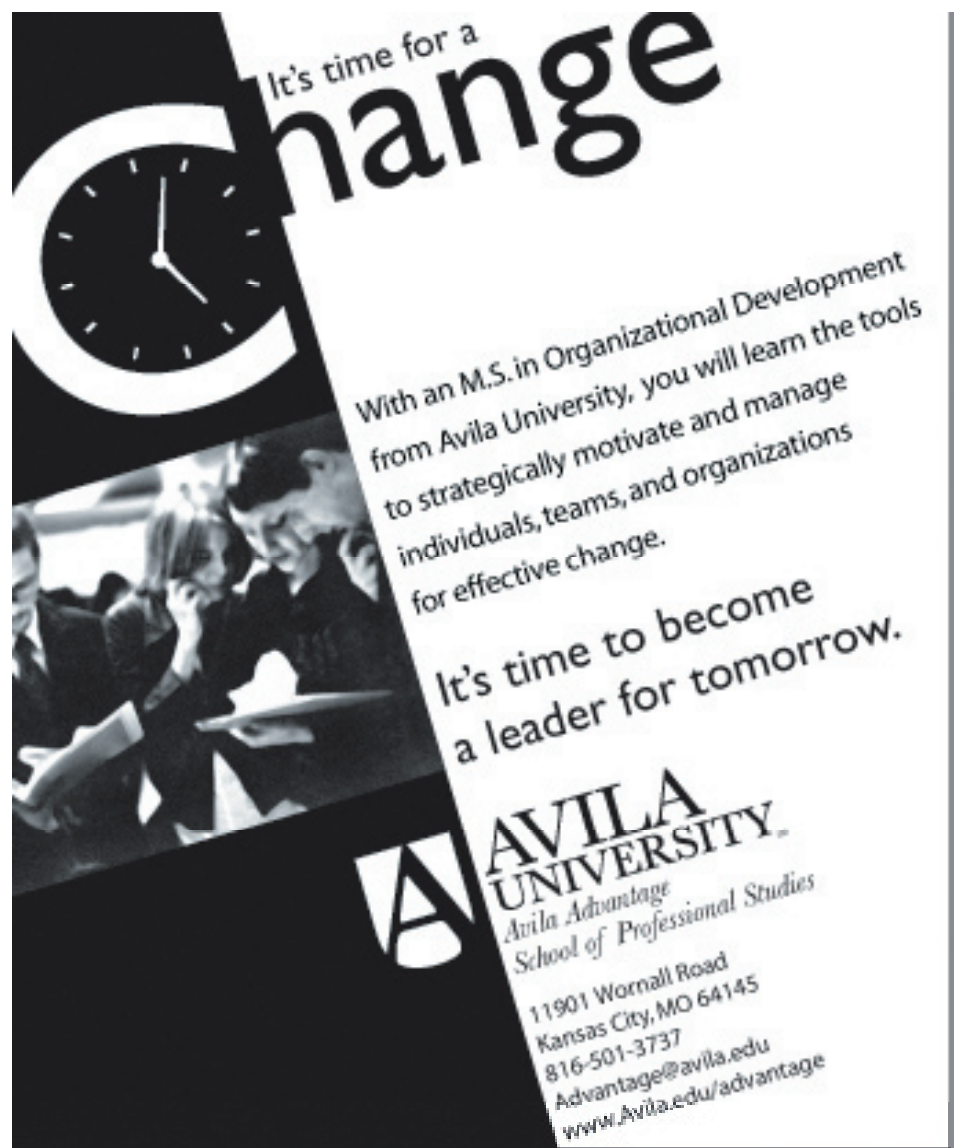
something that you are truly interested in and love to do because you will spend the rest of your life drudging through work and waiting on retirement if you are in a field that you dread.

Hamilton worked her way up the ladder with determination when she decided to shift careers. She stated that this change represented an evolution in her life as it was a gradual process. Her accomplishments and recognitions include an award on Environmental and Political Issues. Recently she conducted a Wal-Mart screening and last summer she worked with her son to make a video on Volleyball Training. Hamilton says, "the highlights in my career and life have occurred because I have been able to do things that interested me, and I have been able to adapt to new things and change.

Dean Hamilton is proud of the opportunities that Avila has to offer and hopes that students will take advantage of them. Since she has been at Avila University the majors have increased from around 30 to about 75. "There is more flexibility, freedom, and easy access to faculty", she states, "which should assist students to be more open to the many possibilities".

When off campus, Dean Hamilton loves cooking and gardening, she plans to travel internationally to Romania and other countries in the future and is planning on going to the winter Olympics in Vancouver. She also plans to buy property in Croatia to be by her family.

Hamilton sees her students as future colleagues and loves building lasting relationships with her students.



Wellness Offers Basic Ballet to Avila Students

Brittany Strelluf

Deanna McBrearty, professional dancer with the New York City Ballet, once said "Because ballet is all about creating an illusion and making it look easy and making it look ethereal, a lot of people don't realize how athletic it is." Several Avila students discovered just how true this statement is when they participated in a series of basic ballet classes sponsored by Avila's Wellness program.

Wellness tries to offer a variety of classes to students, faculty and staff. Earlier this year, Wellness offered Tae Kwan Do classes. Nurse Carol Frevert, the Advisor of Wellness explains the planning process of the Wellness classes. "When the year starts, we do a survey of classes that the students would like to see Wellness offer and we tally them up." Among these surveys, dance lessons were a consistent answer.

The ballet classes were informal and had people of all dance skills in attendance. Students learned barre and center work. Among technique learned were the basic positions of the feet, arm movements, basic leaps, and turns.

Avila student Ashley Fieber explained why she participated in this program, "I always wanted to be a ballerina, and I never got to take courses."

"It's a good stress reliever" added student Rachel Williams.

These classes were taught by Avila's own dance professor, Vickie Strawder. Strawder has many years of experience with dance at the professional level. She has worked as a professional dancer, choreographer, and instructor. She has studied with, among others, the studios of Martha Graham, Luigi and Alvin Ailey.

Writing is not optional, it is essential

Avila Day Care a Great Value for Some

Jasmine Williams

Recently after checking into the day care facility at Avila University I was amazed. At the day care facility they are very well maintained, they take your child on field trips and they also have other schools that come in and visit with the kids. They teach reading, math art as do any other Montessori schooling. They also teach music and movement for our children. The age groups run from 2 1/2 yrs old to 6 yrs old children, which can help out a lot for those kids who are not old enough to go to regular schooling yet.

The day care hours of operation are available to meet the needs for the Avila students. The day care hours are usually 7:30-5pm, which breaks down to day care from 7:30-9am and then 9am-3pm for Montessori school. By 3pm if the kids have not been picked up they would then go back to the day care room from 3pm-5:30 pm. They are flexible with the students school schedules meaning, that they are aware that not all of the students do not go to school every day of the week. So they offer Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or the offer split days, Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. Another benefit for attending the Avila day care facility they offer half days and whole days.

The one thing that may take the students of Avila University by storm is the price for the day care. The tuition for the day care center varies for which program that is chosen that better fits your school schedule. The program runs from September to April, as do the student's school schedule. For the 1st section its full day tuition on M-T-W-Th-F schedule is \$3,150.00 but its \$350 a month, which is to be paid up front for the month. For the 2nd section on M-W-F schedule is \$2,475.00 but its \$275.00 a

month, and finally for the two full days of T-Th its \$2,115.00 and \$235.00 a month.

But there is still 1 other option for the students of Avila the half day schooling which are for the same days but the hours are a little different. Half day hours are 9am-11:30am. The price range for the on the M-F schedule its \$2,295.00 and \$255 a month. For the M-W-F schedule the price is \$1,710.00 and \$190 a month. And finally for the T-Th schedule its \$1,350.00 and \$150. And the school feels that taking 10% from one of those 6 different packages is sufficient enough for the students.

I ask you does this sound fair for the students of Avila. At other universities their students that are paying tuition do not have to pay for the day care facility. It seems that since our tuition is already \$32,000, which is one of the highest tuitions for a university, we should have to pay for the day care. Why would they consider this amount if they have a number of students who are on financial aid and getting grants, what makes the coordinator that sets this price believe we as students would be able to afford this price for day care. Then on the same note, the day care facility does not provide their students with lunch, they feel that the parents know their child better then they would. But again if I'm paying another tuition on the I have now I would rather you give them food.

Now I am not telling the students of Avila not to take their child to the day care on campus, just to consider your options for other types of day care. The facility and the teachers are very nice, and well maintained, but I know for myself I will consider all of my options that are available to me, not just picking anything since it is so convenient to me. So in closing consider your options students.

Where do you get your zzz's?

By Amy Schwarz

Don't be alarmed if you see other Avila students sleeping around campus. The campus is more than a place to learn, it is also a place to rest. Avila is a small campus, but there are still many great, hidden places to sleep.

There are four popular spots to sleep around campus. The first would be in the lobby areas of O'Reiley. This building has two lobby areas with comfortable couches and chairs. Many students take quick naps here in between classes.

The next spot is in Goppert. Yes, the nice plush leather couches. It is an area that is quiet and has dim lighting. "I sleep on the couches in the lobby of Goppert, because I practically live there and they are super comfortable. I find myself sleeping on them on a regular basis, almost once a day, at least to nap, but definitely every other day," said Brittny Reid. This is a big hit among the theater students.

Another spot on the Avila campus is the Eagle's Nest located in the lower level of the Marian Center. "I enjoy taking a nap in the eagle's nest because it's comfortable

and I can listen to music and watch TV while I'm taking a quick nap between classes," says Andrea Francisces.

The most common place students catch up on their zzz's, if they don't live in the dorms, is their car. It's quiet, private, and you don't have to worry about people hearing you snore or seeing you drool. You might just have the occasional driver who pulls up to park next to you. More than likely he probably has used his car for the same purpose.

Here are a few more spots that you might not have thought of to take a nap: the library, Mac lab in Dalavis, and the football locker room.

Here's another idea of a place to rest your head. Simon Meade made a suggestion that, "Avila should place hammocks abstractly around campus, so faculty and staff can nap luxuriously, or read if they please." This would be very relaxing, but a little unusual for a college campus. If you're feeling rebellious bring a hammock, and string it between two trees. Just watch out for the squirrels!

Whose Hands Is Your Safety In?

Brittian Reid

Feeling safe on campus is something that I feel is necessary at any college. Avila's campus is my home away from home, so I want to feel as secure as I do at home. I haven't had any concerns with my safety on campus, but then again I talk to the officers and try to get to know them to know exactly who is protecting me. It wasn't until one of my friends commented that they were afraid to walk to their car one night, that I wondered what others thought about the safety department on campus. I then decided to see what others thought about it and talk to the officers about it as well.

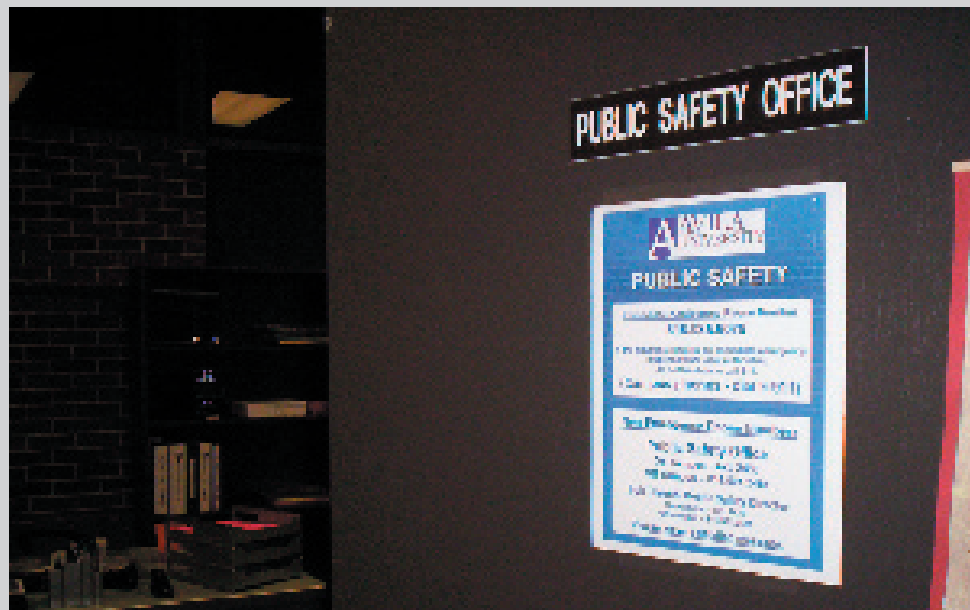
I talked to several people who said that they didn't like the public safety, but what I inferred from what they said was that they got busted for doing something, that they obviously shouldn't have been doing in the first place, and didn't want to take the consequences for their actions so they tried to take it out on and blame it on the officers. This is pointless, when I asked Avila Public Safety Officer Brandon Ivey about it he said, "I don't think the students realize that all we do is write up an incident report and turn in paperwork. We have nothing to do with the punishment or consequences of the issue."

First year student Victor Gray said, "I feel safe, but I'd like to see more done outside with the cars, and break-ins. Cameras maybe." First year student Lauren Cazzell expressed her concerns as well, "I do feel safe on campus, there isn't really any spot in particular that I don't. But I do think lighting in the parking lots would help people from rear ending each other, and feel safer in general." I agree with Victor and Lauren, that something could be done in the parking lots, weather it be cameras or lights, something so I would have a little more ease knowing my car is in good hands and I can get to it with no interference. Bob Creech, the Director of Avila Public Safety also agrees, "I would definitely say we need more lighting and better lighting, not only in the parking lots, but also in the quad. It is darker than it probably should be. However it isn't always as simple as saying, 'there's a problem, lets fix it.' It really is a matter of making sure you have

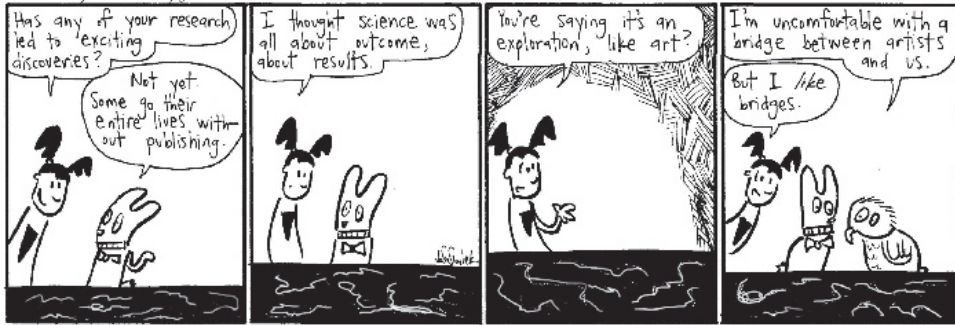
the money for that type of project." So there you go, it is being approached, just know that it isn't something that is going to happen over night.

The consensus of my friends was that they do feel safe they just don't really have any idea of what the public safety does. My advice to them was to talk to the officers, you know they are semi-cool people when you actually talk to them like humans and don't fear them like they are just trying to get you in trouble - because they're not. However, to set people at ease I asked some more questions of the officers. I asked Bob Creech what he would like to see happen in the rest of the year and next year, "I think that we have so much potential as a community. I would like to see us become more of a family and community and the students realize that we really are here for them." When asked about how they actually 'secure' the campus, Creech said, "We do rounds, at least three per shift. These are full rounds; inside the buildings, across the campus and around the perimeters to ensure everyone's safety." Ivey added, "We are more than happy to walk people to their cars if they don't feel safe. Just give us a call and we'll head to them as quick as possible. We want everyone, especially the students, to feel safe and at ease." They both expressed that they would rather get a call to walk someone to their car than know that they feel unsafe walking by themselves. Both Creech and Ivey also talked about how it isn't just 'security' which implies the locking and unlocking of buildings, but that safety, is their main concern and also several new 'services,' if you will. Public safety now is more than willing to try and help you unlock your car if you locked your keys in it, or jump-start it if it is dead. They will do all they can to help the students and faculty out.

Although I didn't have that many concerns with my safety to begin with, learning all this definitely made me feel even more secure. I hope it helps others out as well. If you have any questions about the safety on campus, just ask an officer they are more than willing to help you out.



The Family Monster by Josh Shalek



www.joshshalek.com http://www.myspace.com/joshshalek

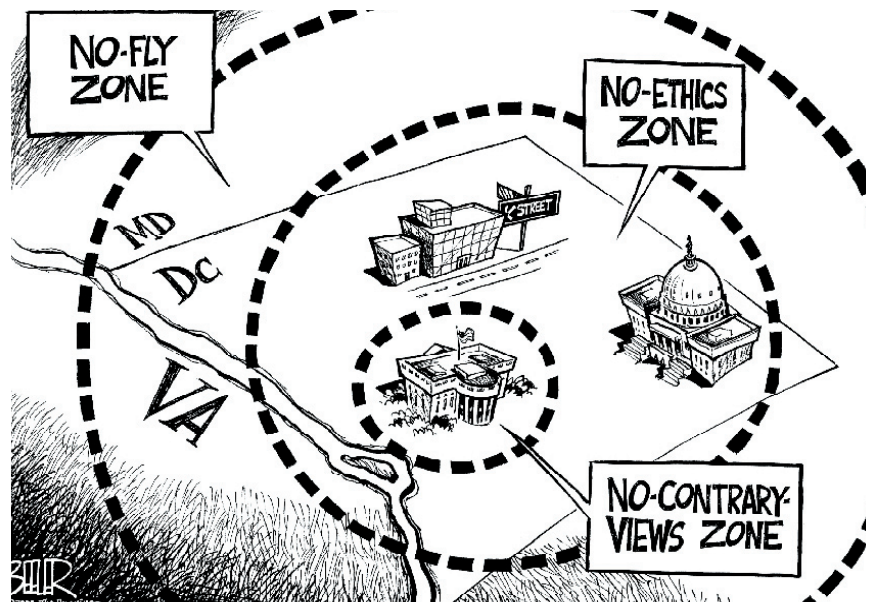
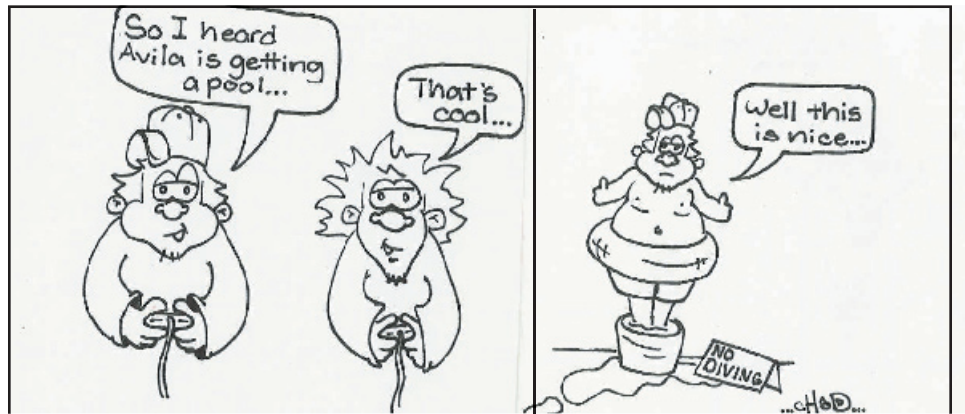
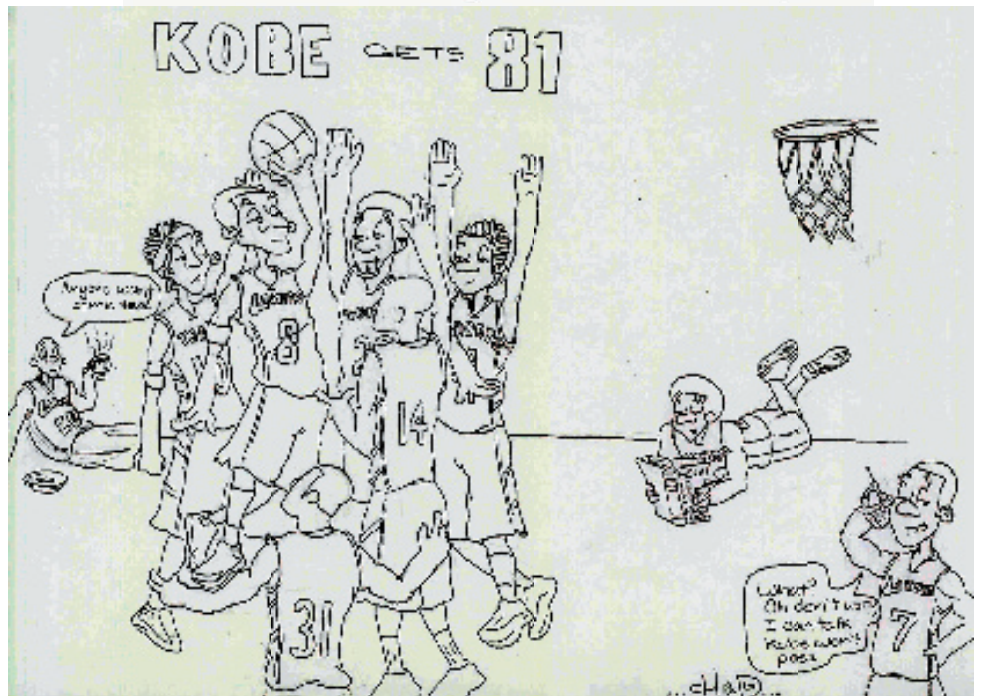
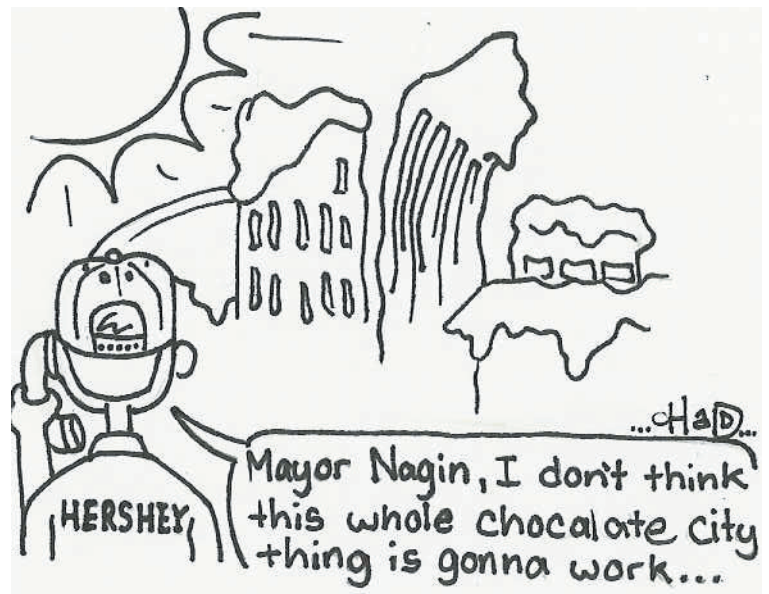
A College Girl Named Joe



A College Girl Named Joe



Two Dudes



THE AVILA UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Avila University is a value-based community of learning, Catholic, co-educational, and sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet. In a climate respecting the worth and dignity of each individual, the University provides liberal arts, professional, undergraduate, and graduate education for students' responsible life-long contributions to the contemporary world.

Adopted 1986-1987

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Excellence in teaching and learning

The Catholic identity of the University

The sponsorship and contributions of the Sisters of St. Joseph

The worth, dignity, and potential of each human being

Diversity and its expression